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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Preliminarily, the Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 29, 30, 48, 49 and 52-56. As all presently pending claims depend from allowed claims, it is respectfully submitted that entry of this amendment will place the application in a suitable condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 24-27, 29-31, 33, 35, 48, 49 and 51-77 as amended, will be pending. Newly presented claims 57-77 were added to more distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention and depend from allowed claims.

Claims 34-36 and 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. The Applicants submit that the above amendments fully address this rejection.

Claims 24-27, 31-35, 41-47 and 50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or, alternatively, under §103(a), as unpatentable over Burke *et al.* (EP 0106562), and claims 24-27, 31, 32, 36, 50 and 51 stand rejected under §103(a) as obvious over Ohno (US 4,579,779). The Applicants submit that these rejections are rendered moot in light of the above amendments.

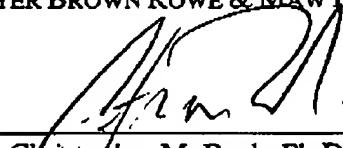
Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

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Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

MAYER BROWN ROWE & MAW LLP

By: 

Christopher M. Beck, Ph.D.
Registration No. 52,603
Direct No. (202) 263-3374

Paul L. Sharer
Registration No. 36,004
Direct No. (202) 263-3340

PLS/CMB
Intellectual Property Group
1909 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006-1101
(202) 263-3000 Telephone
(202) 263-3300 Facsimile

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